DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krishnan, the whole question of roads and communications as apart from the main arterial communications is receiving the attention of the Chief Engineer who proposes to have a systematic programme of work drawn up, and I have no doubt that the views advocated by you to-day will receive attention when that programme is drawn up.

In regard to the girls' school at Shertallai Government have now before them certain proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for more English schools throughout the State. This will be taken up in conjunction with those proposa s.

121. Needs of the Vaikom taluk.

MR. SANKARA PILLAI MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Vaikom taluk*) said that the Vaikom-Vechur road, the Vaikom-Thirumanivenkitapuram road, the Vaikom-Vazhamana road and the Palankadavu-Thalayolaparambu road should be metalled. A new road should be opened from the Vaikom Kolothum Kadavu to the Puthantodu along the banks of the lake and all the Sirkar buildings at Vaikom should be shifted to this road. Another new road should be opened from Nerekadavu to the Vadayattu bridge *via* Udayanapuram and irumpuzhikara. The ryots' roads from Kallaravadakkekara to Ayamkudi and from Kaduthuruth to Gnizhur should be taken over for maintenance by Government.

The following canals should be widened and deepened:—

Kaniyan todu,
Perunchilavan todu,
Anchumana todu,
Kallara todu,
Chulli todu.

In regard to education, an English girls' school should be opened in the Vaikom town and two Higher Grade Vernacular Schools, one at Kallara and the other at Idayazham.

As regards medical relief, a dispensary should be established at Kaduthuruthi.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sankara Pillai Madhavan Pillai, the improvement of the Vaikom-Vechoor road is proceeding so as to render it fit for cart traffic. There is provision for gravelling the road. So, the question of metalling it at the same time does not arise. Similarly, the Chief Engineer considers that the gravelling of the Vaikom-Tirumanivenkitapuram road is desirable and he is going to take that now, as soon as it is sanctioned.

The Vaikom-Vazhamana road is one which it is proposed to hand over to the municipality who will no doubt carry out whatever improvements are necessary.

In regard to the Palankadavu-Talayolaparambu road an estimate for improving this road was sanctioned 10 days ago. There is provision for gravelling it wherever necessary.

Then as regards the other roads these require to be investigated. I should think that the Kolothumkadavu-Puthan todu road scheme is a large item of expenditure involving several lakhs of rupees.

Widening and deepening of Kaniyan todu. This has been dragging on for the last four years. Sanction has been accorded. However the land acquisition is being completed and the land handed over to the P. W. D. The work will proceed rapidly now.

I have already replied about the widening of the Perunchilavan todu. The widening and deepening of the Anchumana todu was carried out under a special estimate and the improvement of it will be done year by year out of the maintenance grant. The Government are now considering certain recommendations from the Chief Engineer for the widening of the Kallara and Chulli todus without detriment to the cultivation.

In regard to an English girls' school at Vaikom, there is already one private school there. The manager of the school has applied to the Director of Public Instruction for permission to raise the standard of the school.

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MEMBER: It is three miles away.

DEWAN: If a private agency runs a school anywhere in the town to suit the convenience of the people of Vaikcm, the Director will consider the question of grant-in-aid.

The question of Higher Grade Vernacular Schools at Kallara and Idayazham has been referred to the Inspector of Schools whose report is awaited.

In regard to the dispensary at Kaduthuruthi, I have nothing to add to what I said on the same subject last year.

122. Needs of the Kottayam taluk, Group II.

MR. DEVASIA VARKEY (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group II*) said that a dispensary was established at Atirampuzha about twenty years ago in recognition of the importance of the place. Atirampuzha was then the most important place in the Ettumanur taluk. It had grown in importance since then and had become the seat of a market and two or three schools; there were also a big printing press and several schools at Mannanam close by. Atirampuzha was also a place which had easy communication both by water and by land with the neighbouring villages. In spite of all these facts the Medical Board had recommended the removal of the Atirampuzha dispensary to the neighbourhood of the Ettumanur temple. Apart from the facilities at Atirampuzha, the proposed site near the temple was one not accessible to all classes of people. The dispensary should therefore be retained at Atirampuzha, and it had moreover to be converted into a district hospital. If this was not possible, a qualified doctor should be appointed and a new building should be provided for the hospital.

Secondly, the member requested that the water-lock in the Pennar todu should be repaired early, and sufficient funds provided for the maintenance of the water-lock and the canal every year.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Devasia Varkey, the idea of transferring the Atirampuzha dispensary to Ettumanur which the Administrative Board, Medical Services, at one time entertained, has since been dropped.

With regard to the Pennar todu and lock, I think it is rather an important matter and a difficult question and I should like the present Chief Engineer also to investigate the matter.

To go back to the Atirampuzha dispensary, the Administrative Board do not think that a necessity exists at present for converting it into a hospital now.

123. Needs of the Kottayam town.

MR. M. M. ABRAHAM MALIAKAL (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) speaking on the present condition of the District Hospital, Kottayam, said that a resident medical officer, one more lady doctor, a qualified nurse, and two more compounders should be appointed in the hospital. There were already a few nurses in the hospital, but in the opinion of the member, none of them was qualified for the work. He therefore proposed that, besides appointing an additional qualified nurse, two of the present nurses should be transferred to some other hospitals and two qualified nurses appointed in their stead. So far as accommodation in the hospital was concerned, it was entirely insufficient. The whole building had to be demolished and reconstructed, and at least a dozen kitchens had to be provided. In this connection, the member emphasised the need for the Inspecting Medical Officer paying constant visits to medical institutions, examining their needs and bringing them to the notice of Government.

The member next took up the question of constructing a good sub-jail at Kottayam. The present lock-up had only four rooms each 12 feet by 8 feet in size. In each of these rooms, no fewer than twenty-eight prisoners were shut up. The rooms were never washed or cleaned. Nor were the prisoners given good meals. There were also no arrangements for washing their cloth and cropping their hair. A spacious sub-jail with sufficient accommodation should therefore be put up.

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